



# Discretionary Grant Training

*FY 2017 Application Cycle*

February 12, 2016

Please Stand By  
The training will begin shortly.



Grant Program Staff: 512-963-6994



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**The mission of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission is to provide financial and technical support to counties to develop and maintain quality, cost-effective indigent defense systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the Constitution and state law.**



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Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals  
Vice Chair: The Honorable Olen Underwood  
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# FY17 Request for Applications



## FY17 Competitive Discretionary Grant Program Requests for Applications (RFA)

January 2016

### Section I: Program Overview

The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (Commission) provides financial and technical support to counties to develop and maintain quality, cost-effective indigent defense systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the Commission and state law. The Commission also provides Competitive Discretionary Grants for any program that improves the provision of indigent defense services.

**Period for Funding and Program Operation:** October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.

**Application Due Dates:** Applications must be submitted online through the Commission's [Grant and Plan Management System](#) ([http://tidc.texas.gov](#)). New applications for Competitive Discretionary Grants follow a two-tier process.

- First, applicants must submit a brief letter to submit Application (SLA) by 5pm on March 11, 2016.
- Second, applicants that receive a Notice to Proceed with Full Application must submit by 5pm on May 6, 2016.
- "Menu Option" applications (see below) must be submitted by 5pm on May 6, 2016 and do not require an SLA.
- Continuing Multi-year Grant applications must be submitted by 5pm on May 6, 2016 and do not require an SLA. See below for full requirements.

Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

#### Competitive Discretionary Grant Categories

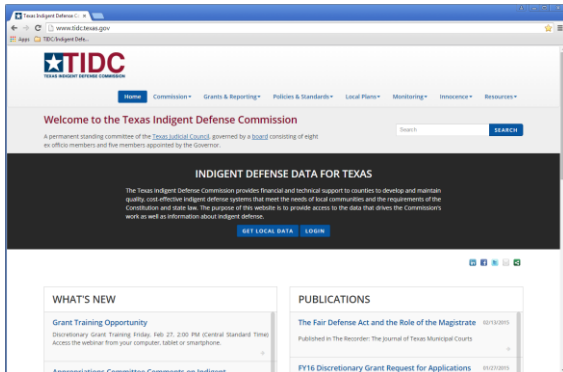
- **New Multi-Year Discretionary Grants**
  - Minimum of \$10,000 per application.
  - Funding for direct client service programs that represent indigent defendants.
  - Grantees will be required to re-apply for continued funding each grant year.
  - Requires a work plan as described below.
  - Typically pays up to 10% of total project costs for the first year; 60% for the second year; 40% for the third year; and 10% for the fourth year.
  - Awards for multi-year programs are made each fiscal year, with funding for eligible expenses provided on a reimbursement basis.

<http://www.tidc.texas.gov/media/41861/fy17-tidc-discretionary-grant-rfa-final.pdf>

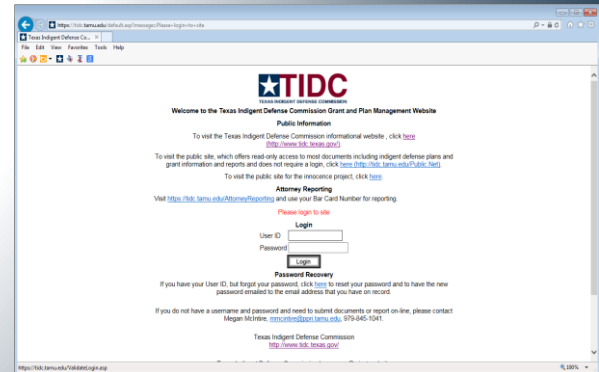
## TIDC Discretionary Grants Key Points

- Online Application
- Competitive Process
- Program must be specific to indigent defense
- Counties must be in compliance with requirements of the Fair Defense Act
- Two-Tier Application
- Discretionary Grant Types
  - Single Year/Multi-Year/Menu Option

# TIDC Online



<http://tidc.texas.gov>



<http://tidc.tamu.edu>

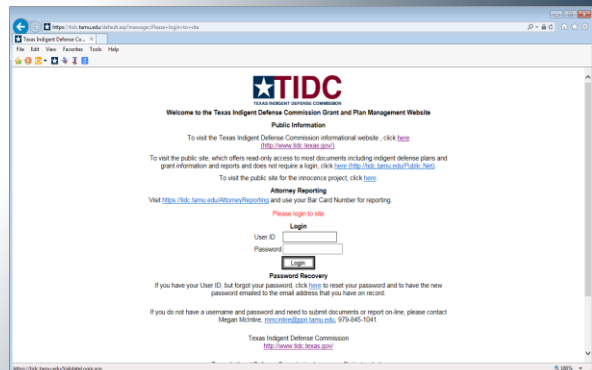
## Online Grant Applications

Grant applications are submitted online. County officials need login credentials to gain access to the application pages.

Contact Heather Caspers for password/log-in assistance.

[tidc@ppri.tamu.edu](mailto:tidc@ppri.tamu.edu)

Phone: 979-845-1041



<http://tidc.tamu.edu>

# Indigent Defense

- The Right to Attorney for criminal defendants and juvenile respondents who cannot afford to hire counsel is a Constitutional Right (Federal & State)
- Texas Fair Defense Act of 2001

## Fair Defense Act of 2001

1. Established Texas Indigent Defense Commission (formerly the Task Force on Indigent Defense)
2. Appropriated state funds
3. Required judges to adopt a plan for providing indigent defense services which must meet certain requirements
4. Required auditors (or treasurers) to report financial and case information
5. Set time frames for appointment of counsel and other provisions

# Technical Support & Grants

*Section 79.037, Local Gov't Code, provides that:*

**The commission shall:**

- a. Assist** counties in improving their indigent defense systems;
- b. Promote** compliance by counties with reqt's of State law;
- c. Provide** Grants;
- d. Monitor** each county that receives a grant and enforce compliance by the county with the conditions of the grant.

## Texas Counties are Eligible to Apply

- Must meet all indigent defense plan requirements
- Must be in compliance with required reporting (Indigent Defense Expenditure Report, Trial Court Activity Reports to OCA)
- Non-County entities with special eligibility should contact the Commission for application assistance.



Photo Credit: Marco Hanson

## General Discretionary Grant Information

- Competitive (evaluated by committee of outside reviewers)
- Grant payments made on a reimbursement basis
- Develop new programs or processes to improve indigent defense services
- Support policy initiatives and strategic objectives of TIDC

## Key Dates in FY17 Application Cycle

- RFA released January 2016
- Intent to Submit Application due March 11, 2016
- Full Application due on May 6, 2016
- Award Consideration June 2016
- Awards Issued, County Acceptance August 2016
- Start Date of Program 10/1/2016



## FY17 Funding Details

### Grant period

October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

Quarterly fiscal and progress reports required

Multi-year programs awarded year by year.

## Commission Grant Priorities

### • Single Year Grants

- New programs or processes that improve indigent defense
- May include indigent defense-specific technology projects

### Single Year Program Examples

- Indigent Defense Coordinators
- Video Teleconferencing Systems
- CUC TechShare Indigent Defense System implementation



## Single Year Grant Program Requirements

- Minimum application request of \$5,000
- FTE positions require a 50% county match
- Video Conference equipment requires a 50% county match
- Technology projects require county match – see RFA p.7 for details.

## Grant Priorities

- Multi-Year Discretionary Grant
  - New programs to provide direct client services

### Multi-Year Grant Project Examples

- Public defender offices
- Regional public defender offices
- Managed assigned counsel programs
- Special defender programs for mentally ill defendants
- *Padilla* attorneys – immigration-related collateral consequences
- Juvenile defender services (juvenile delinquency, CINS)
  - Note that CPS cases and other civil matters are NOT eligible for grants.

## Multi-Year Requirements

- Minimum application of \$50,000
- Cash match requirement
- Reimbursement models
  - Usually 80-60-40-20% of awarded activity for 4 years
- Grantees commit to continue program after grant period

## Preferred Applications

- Develop model programs (replicable)
- Involve multiple counties coordinating the program implementation
- Demonstrate long-term commitment
- Include county matching funds in budget
- Projects have minimal or no indirect cost
- From counties with a population less than 250,000

## “MENU OPTION” Grants

- Maximum Grant \$50,000
- May fund 50% of program cost up to \$50,000
- Indigent Defense Coordinators & Videoconference Systems
- Need a Commissioners Court resolution
- Must agree to Program Requirements (see RFA pp. 14-15)
- Can apply by May 6<sup>th</sup> (no ISA needed)



## Two-Tier Process

### Tier-One: Intent to Submit Application (ISA)

- Complete online ISA by **3/11/2016**
- Secure letter of support from at least one judge
- Commissioners court resolution may not be required at this point, depending on county rules.

## Online Intent to Submit Application (ISA)

- Problem statement (Why is program needed?)
- Objectives (What are the goals?)
- Activities (What will you do to accomplish these goals?)
- Evaluation (How will you measure success?)
- General cost estimate
- Include at least one letter of support from judge who will be involved in proposed program (submit via email).

## Tier 2- The Full Grant Application

- ISA will be reviewed
- Responses (Notice to Proceed) will be sent out within 2 weeks
- Secure written support from courts, commissioners, or other involved parties (see RFA p.13)
- E-mail scanned Commissioners Court resolution (RFA p. 12) and supporting documents to Commission

## Tier 2- The Application

- If notified to continue, complete full application online by 5pm on May 6, 2016
- Secure written support from courts, commissioners, or other involved parties
- E-mail scanned resolution and supporting documents to Commission grants manager ([ecolfax@tidc.texas.gov](mailto:ecolfax@tidc.texas.gov)) by the deadline

## Tips

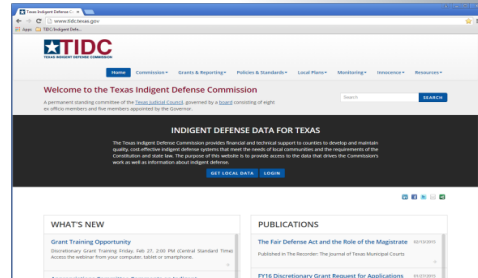
- Carefully review the RFA and contact TIDC with any questions
- Complete **ALL** sections
- Complete **ALL** sections in the manner indicated
- Double check work before submitting
- Make sure to submit before March 11 due date.
- Call **TIDC** if you need help!

# Thank you.



<http://tidc.tamu.edu>

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